(22)

EXCISE

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/27 GEORGETOWN 2087

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DEPARTMENT PASS TO ARA/CAR/TUMMINIA
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OASC, OCEN (PEOPLE'S TEMPLE)
SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S TEMPLE IMMIGRANTS TO GUYANA
REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 1991, (B) GEORGETOWN 2010 (C) STATE 206679
1. REPTELS REPORTED ON PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM RECENT LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE WHO HAVE IMMIGRATED TO GUYANA. CONSUL VISITED JONESTOWN ON AUGUST 31 AND SPENT SEVERAL HOURS TOURING SITE. CONSUL SAW JOHN STOEN, SUBJECT OF REFTEL C. HE CONFIRMED IDENTITY THROUGH PHOTO PROVIDED BY MOTHER'S ATTORNEY.
2. BISHOP JIM JONES MET WITH CONSUL AND DURING CONVERSATION EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT EFFECT PRESS ATTACKS BY MAGAZINE "NEW WEST" WERE HAVING ON THE MEMBERS OF HIS ORGANIZATION. JONES BELIEVED THESE ATTACKS WERE THE PRIMARY REASON WHY MEMBERS RELATIVES IN THE US WERE INQUIRING ABOUT THEIR HEALTH AND WELL BEING. HE STATED THAT ALLEGATIONS BY FORMER MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE THAT PEOPLE WERE BEING HELD AGAINST THEIR WILL IN GUYANA WERE DELIBERATE LIES. HE POINTED OUT THE LACK OF ARMED GUARDS AND OPENESS OF THE SITE. SEVERAL TIMES WHEN JONES AND CONSUL CAME UPON A GROUP JONES INTRODUCED CONSUL AND THEN ASKED MEMBERS OF THE
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GROUP IF THEY WERE HAPPY AND DESIRED TO STAY. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THEY ALL ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY.
3. IN THIS CONNECTION CONSUL IS COORDINATING RETURN TO THE US OF PEOPLE'S TEMPLE MEMBER [redacted] E B6
[redacted] LENDING CREDENCE TO JONES E B6
ASSERTION IN PARA 2 WAS FACT THAT [redacted] HAD LEFT JONES- E B6
TOWN WITHOUT HINDERANCE AND REQUESTED ASSISTANCE OF THE GUYANESE AUTHORITIES IN PORT KAITUMA IN RETURNING TO US.
[redacted] LATER REQUESTED CONSUL TO INTERCEDE ON HIS E B6
BEHALF WITH PEOPLE'S TEMPLE TO RETURN HIM TO THE US SINCE HE WAS NOT SUITED FOR LIFE IN JONESTOWN. JONES, WHEN INFORMED BY CONSUL OF [redacted] REQUEST AGREED TO DO SO E B6
AT PEOPLE'S TEMPLE EXPENSE.
4. CONSUL'S INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT PEOPLE'S TEMPLE HAS MADE SURPRISING PROGRESS IN 3 YEARS IN CLEARING SURROUNDING JUNGLE AND ESTABLISHING A SETTLEMENT. THE COMMUNITY NOW CONSISTS OF SOME 600 PLUS INHABITANTS WHO IN KEEPING WITH SOCIALIST PHILOSOPHY OF ORGANIZATION LIVE
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DORMITORY STYLE IN SMALL HOUSES AND EAT IN COMMUNAL DINING TENTS. THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED A CLINIC WITH A MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATE AND FULLY TRAINED NURSES AND LABORATORY TECHNICIANS. THERE IS GRADUATE AGRONOMIST WHO HAS SUPERVISED THE PLANTING OF CASSAVA, PINEAPPLE, EDDOES, BEANS ETC. THE ENTIRE ARRANGEMENT IS VERY SIMILAR TO AN ISRAELI KIBBUTZ. LOCAL GOG OFFICIALS WHILE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED ABOUT THE SUDDEN HEAVY INFLUX OF AMERICANS AT JONESTOWN ARE LOUD IN THEIR PRAISE AT THE PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF THE IMMIGRANTS.

6. CONSUL NOTICED RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN FROM PRE-SCHOOL TO HIGH SCHOOL AGE. JONES DESCRIBED

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CHILDREN AS FORMER WARDS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. ALSO AT JONESTOWN WERE ABOUT 100 ELDERLY AMERICANS, INCLUDING ONE MAN REPUTED TO BE 102 YEARS OF AGE. PEOPLE'S TEMPLE MEMBER EXPLAINED EACH "SENIOR CITIZEN" HAS SMALL TASK TO PERFORM AND THAT THE ELDERLY HAVE RESPONDED VERY WELL TO THIS "SENIOR CITIZEN'S PROGRAM" BECAUSE THEY ARE NOW WANTED AND USEFUL.

7. CONSUL COULD NOT DETERMINE FROM SHORT STAY WHETHER HE WAS SUBJECTED TO GIGANTIC "PUT ON" BY JONES OR HIS ADHERENTS TRULY ARE DEDICATED TO THEIR MISSION OF BUILDING A THRIVING, PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY. ALL MEMBERS APPEARED CHEERFUL, FRIENDLY, AND LOOKED REASONABLY HEALTHY. CONSUL HAD LUNCH THAT WOULD PROBABLY NOT WIN ANY CULINARY PRIZE BUT WAS FILLING. HOWEVER, WHILE THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT TO DATE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE HAS ACHIEVED A GREAT DEAL, THERE IS ALSO NO DOUBT THAT JONES BELIEVES HE AND HIS GROUP ARE BEING THREATENED BY A CONSPIRACY OF "RIGHT WING FORCES" WHO ARE OUT TO DESTROY THE ORGANIZATION. ONLY JARRING NOTE DURING VISIT OCCURRED WHEN JONES ASKED CONSUL IF THE USG HAD REQUESTED THE GOG TO EXPEL THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE IMMIGRANTS. JONES CLAIMED THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT SUCH A REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE. CONSUL EMPHATICALLY DENIED CHARGE AND STATED SUCH ACTION WAS INCONCEIVABLE. JONES SHOWED CONSUL NUMEROUS TESTIMONIALS FROM CALIFORNIA POLITICAL FIGURES SUCH AS LT. GOV. MERVYN DYMALLY OF CALIFORNIA AND THE MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO, CHURCH LEADERS FROM CALIFORNIA, AND OTHER COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES THAT HAD BEEN SENT TO PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM ON BEHALF OF PEOPLE'S TEMPLE RECOMMENDING ORGANIZATION. ALL LETTERS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN WITHIN THE PAST THREE MONTHS AND ALLUDED TO IMMIGRATION BY ORGANIZATION TO GUYANA. LETTERS WERE NOT POLITICAL IN NATURE AND REFERRED MOSTLY INSTEAD TO BASIC AIMS OF ORGANIZATION. JONES ALSO SHOWED CONSUL COPIES OF COURT DECISIONS TAKEN

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ADALISA [redacted] E B6
[redacted] WHO HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH FORGERY, UTTERING E B6
FALSE CHECKS AND IMPERSONATION. DOCUMENTS SHOWED THAT
[redacted] HAD BEEN CONVICTED OF THE ABOVE CHARGES DURING E B6
THE PAST 10-12 YEARS AND ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HAD HIS
PAROLE REVOKED. JONES CHARACTERIZED [redacted] AS ONE OF E B6
PEOPLE'S TEMPLE GREATEST ENEMIES.

7. DURING ENTIRE VISIT CONSUL WAS PHOTOGRAPHED EXTENSIVELY BY BOTH MOVIE AND STILL CAMERAS WHILE TOURING SITE WITH JONES. PRESUMEABLY THIS FILM WILL BE UTILIZED BY PEOPLE'S TEMPLE TO SHOW USG INTEREST IN PROJECT. MEMBER SAYING FILM INDICATED HE WAS PREPARING FILM AND MENTIONED THAT CONSUL WAS BELIEVED TO BE FIRST MEMBER OF USG TO VISIT COMMUNITY. FRANKLY IT WAS STRANGE TO HEAR A BACKGROUND OF SPIRITUAL MUSIC BEING SUNG BY MOSTLY BLACK ELDERLY PERSONS WHILE VIEWING A COMMUNITY OF AMERICANS IN A REMOTE REGION OF GUYANA THAT CAN ONLY BE REACHED BY BOAT AFTER A 22 HOUR TRIP FROM GEORGETOWN OR BY A THRICE WEEKLY FLIGHT AND THEN A ONE HOUR TRIP BY LAND ROVER OVER A DIRT ROAD CARVED OUT OF THE WILDERNESS. ALL IN ALL, VISIT WAS BOTH INFORMATIVE AND INTERESTING.

BLACKEN

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